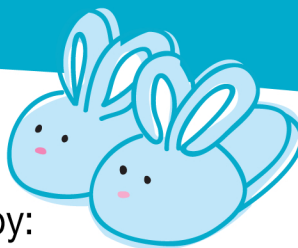




Using Wikipedia WORKBOOK



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Workbook – Using Wikipedia

Overview:

The following lessons and objectives were covered in this course. Feel free to go back and review some or all of them, if necessary:

1. Look at Wikipedia in the Classroom

- Looks at Wikipedia as a learning and educational tool.
- Discusses the concept of a collaborative encyclopedia.
- Reviews the three key contribution policies.
- Considers the pros and cons of Wikipedia in the classroom and how best to use it.

2. Search Wikipedia

- Discusses browsing content in Wikipedia through the use of portals and internal links.
- Explains how to search content available in Wikipedia.
- Provides tips for locating specific information by using keywords.

3. Understand Revision History

- Examines the collaborative aspects of Wikipedia.
- Shows how to view the revision history of an article and compare archived versions with the current version.

4. Examine Resources, Media, and Links

- Explains the use of media in entries and what copyrights apply.
- Talks about the importance of cited resources and links in regards to Wikipedia information.
- Considers the use of links for dealing with citations and how to amend them in an article.

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5. Create and Use a Wikipedia Account

- Shows how to make a Wikipedia account.
- Lists the advantages to having such an account, such as the ability to start new pages and to upload images.
- Considers ways to use a Wikipedia account on a day-to-day basis.
- Demonstrates how to use the watchlist feature of Wikipedia.

6. Contribute to Wikipedia

- Discusses how to edit or add to existing content on Wikipedia.
- Addresses appropriate editing etiquette.
- Comments on the applicability of copyright to Wikipedia content.
- Demonstrates how to use Wikipedia's Sandbox feature.

7. Submit to Wikipedia

- Illustrates how to create an article and submit it to Wikipedia.
- Goes over using the Article wizard.
- Gives hints and tips for drafting acceptable encyclopedia content.

Real-life Examples:

Here are some real-life examples of how the concepts discussed in this course could be used in a classroom, either as a teaching tool or an administrative aid:

1. Demonstrate the Purpose of a Wiki

Discuss Wikipedia with your class and explain the meaning of a wiki, or collaborative project. To demonstrate the way this works, pick a subject of current study. Write one sentence about this subject on a piece of paper and pass it around, letting each student add another statement or edit the existing information. When you are done, discuss the completed list and what it gained from collaboration.

2. Imagine Wikipedia Throughout Time

Ask your class to imagine what important historical figures might have to say about Wikipedia. Would the Founding Fathers agree with the article on the Declaration of Independence? Would Adolph Hitler attempt to edit the entry on the Holocaust? Have each student pick such an example and write a short essay about his or her thoughts.

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3. Examine Wikipedia's Policies

Explain to your students the three key tenets of Wikipedia's editing policy. Do they think these principles are important to the quality of the encyclopedia? Why or why not? Look at several articles together as a class and discuss whether these tenets are being followed.

4. Explore Wikipedia Portals

After talking about how to browse content on Wikipedia, ask your class to read a subportal of their choosing (within the umbrella of a portal pertaining to the curriculum) every day for a week and gather relevant information and trivia from it. Set aside class time the following Monday for the students to share their findings with the class.

5. Be Creative with Keywords

Challenge your class to find articles on Wikipedia by using keywords to identify them. Can they find their favorite books by the names of the characters? Or an important historical event by the name of individuals involved with it? Encourage them to be creative--after all, they're sure to learn something about whatever they search.

6. Play a Game with Wikipedia's Links

Make a game of using the links Wikipedia provides in every article. Can the students move from one article to another to another, eventually winding up where they started? Can they do it with five clicks or less? Be sure to remind them to read the articles they encounter in between to get a more thorough understanding of the subject.

7. Discuss Editing History with the Class

Show your students how to view the editing history of an article and encourage them to examine it in-depth. Do they disagree with a particular revision? Do they think the article has benefited from its collaborative development? Do they have ideas for information to contribute? Be sure to discuss their thoughts as a class.

8. Examine an Older Version of an Article

Find a Wikipedia article relating to the class curriculum and access an older version of it via the editing history. Then, show the article to your students and challenge them to find the information that should be changed or elaborated upon. Did they guess correctly? Or even come up with something that the latest revision didn't catch?

9. Organize Wikipedia Drafts

Select a Wikipedia article having to do with a topic of current study and choose several older versions of it from the editing history. Print these articles and make a game of asking the students to order the articles from oldest to newest, working together to finish the task. When they are done, have them discuss the exercise and how the versions differed from one another.

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10. Explore Wikipedia Media

Explore the various forms of media available in Wikipedia articles, and share them with your class. Listen to music clips, and look at photos, paintings, and portraits of famous individuals. What can the students learn from this media? Are they surprised by the way people are dressed or the quality of the image? Be sure to discuss this as a class.

11. Utilize Wikipedia Resources

After teaching your class about a subject relevant to the curriculum, ask them to use the Wikipedia article on that topic to find other resources. From the information they find there, ask each student to write a short essay utilizing these resources as a basis for the conclusions they draw. Have the class share their papers with each other and comment on them as a group.

12. Propose New Media

Break your students into groups and assign them a topic from the curriculum. Ask them to gather media in the form of newspaper articles, images, and even sound clips or video that would be appropriate to a Wikipedia article on the subject. When they are done, compare what they've found to the media available in the encyclopedia. Is there anything they could add to the article? You may also take this opportunity to discuss the nature of copyright with the students.

13. Create a Class Account

Create a class Wikipedia account and explain to your students the opportunities this creates. Which of the features are they most excited about? Do they have ideas for ways to employ these privileges in a class project? Encourage them to discuss these possibilities with one another and brainstorm as a team.

14. Use Watchlists

Ask your students to create their own Wikipedia accounts and add several articles pertaining to the curriculum to their watchlists. As changes are made to these articles, ensure that the students pay attention to the adaptations by having them write a brief summary of the changes and explaining whether they agree with these amendments.

15. Consider User Benefits

Break the class into groups and assign a benefit of creating a Wikipedia account to each. Have the students research this benefit and consider ways in which it could apply to their own studies. Then, ask the groups to prepare a short presentation for the class discussing this feature in greater detail.

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16. Add to a Wikipedia Article

Have your students get involved in changing a Wikipedia article associated with material you are studying in class. Work together to analyze the article and spot weak areas that can be strengthened by the students. Encourage them to participate actively in the Wikipedia community, which should include their classmates.

17. Discuss Copyright

Discuss with the class the nature of material used on Wikipedia. Include concepts of copyright and fair use, and have your students talk about whether the freely distributable principle behind Wikipedia is a good idea. Does it seem fair? Would they put their own work on Wikipedia? Why or why not?

18. Pick the Best Edit

Find an article applicable to the curriculum and create three hypothetical edits that could be made to the text, with one being correct and the other two flawed. Show all three options to the class and challenge them to spot the best edit. Then have the students incorporate this material themselves.

19. Consider Requesting Articles

Have your class browse the Requested Articles page of Wikipedia. Are there any topics relating to the class curriculum? Do the students have articles they'd like to request themselves? Be sure to encourage discussion about their findings.

20. Create a Wikipedia Article

Create a Wikipedia article with the class. Break the students into groups and assign a portion of research to each, such as biographical information or historical relevance. Work together to combine the information and create an informed, accurate, and well-researched article.

21. Imagine Wikipedia Stopped

Talk to your class about the importance of a collaborative encyclopedia. Ask them to imagine what would happen if Wikipedia suddenly removed the add-content feature and no one could write any new articles. How would that affect the encyclopedia today? In fifty years? In a hundred?

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Exercises:

If you would like additional practice or review of the concepts covered in this course, try the following exercise(s) at your convenience:

1. Spend some time getting acquainted with the ways to browse and search content on Wikipedia. As you do so, keep notes about what techniques work well for you and what doesn't. If you have any questions about the articles you come across, be sure to take note of these as well. When you are done, use your research to create a class lesson about finding information with Wikipedia.
2. Browse several Wikipedia articles and make notes about the different forms of media you encounter. Pay special attention to anything you'd like to share with your class and be sure to bookmark these articles for easy reference later. Also consider the importance of new media you would not find in print resources, and contemplate ways to incorporate these ideas into your class curriculum and enthuse students.
3. Consider the benefits of having a Wikipedia user account and research any features you would like to know more about or do not fully understand. Be sure to take note of those you think will be useful to you, those you are unclear on, and any other points of interest. Use this research to draw up a lesson plan that will involve these features.
4. Look up Wikipedia's markup language and familiarize yourself with the ways to format text. Keep notes on these standards, and track any questions that arise about how the language works. When you are done, utilize Wikipedia's sandbox to quiz yourself on these modes of formatting and share your learning with the class.
5. Explore Wikipedia's Article wizard further and make a list of its important features. Then, design a lesson plan revolving around this useful tool and explain its purpose to the students. Be sure to have the class brainstorm together about ways to utilize this exciting feature in the classroom.

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